

THE PORTAL

December 2016
Issue



Advent

Saint John's

The Episcopal Church
in Pine Meadow, CT

FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE –

The Rev. Sandra Cosman

Dear Friends,

December is upon us and Advent is unfolding around us. The Gospel reading for this coming Sunday tells us to "...prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." and the busyness of the holiday season is a reality for many of us.

What does preparing the way of the Lord look like for those of us who live more than 2,000 years after the arrival of the Christ child into this world? Each of us is called to prepare our own answer to that question and only you can know what is the right way for you to prepare. For me, preparing the way means:

- **To be present to others.** To come together with family and friends, colleagues and acquaintances, and the members of my community. Listening, sharing stories, and being together for fun and fellowship is important.
- **To prepare my heart for Christmas.** The work and worry of holiday preparations can get in the way. Time for quiet, meditation, and prayer are important and holiday decorations are wonderful icons for meditation.
- **To find ways to meet God in my neighborhood.** Attending community activities, supporting our community charitable activities, and offering support for those less able to face the challenges of the world reminds me of the gifts that I have been given.
- **To participate in glorious worship.** The Sundays of Advent, Christmas Eve at 5 & 9pm, and Christmas Morning at 9am are a reflection of God's love for us and our love of God.
- **To support the good works of the parish.** The work of St. John's within our community and in the world, is a reflection on all of us. Our charitable contributions and gifts of time, treasure and talent enliven and enrich our world.
- **To grow in the knowledge and love of God.** Time with God remembering the story of the Incarnation is possible by listening to and singing the songs and carols of Christmas. Allow your heart to sing as you hear the familiar melodies.
- **To remember where you have been and where you are headed.** Our stories and God's stories are a wonderful mixture of hope and promise, joy and regret, and success and trying anew. Tell the story to all those you know and love and all those you meet who need hope.

Keep the Faith!



Come make an ornament with u

At the library during
Light New Hartford

SAINT JOHN'S

The Episcopal Church on the Pine Meadow
Green

Off Rt. 44 in New Hartford
Sunday Worship at 8 & 10am
Godly Play for Children at 10am on Sundays
Rhythms of Grace – 1st Sundays at 1pm
The Rev. Sandra L. Cosman, Priest
(860) 379-3062
office@reddoors.com



Open Door Soup Kitchen – Volunteers are needed to join our team for December 17th at St. James in Winsted. (9:00am–1:00pm) Please join us

Stop and Shop Cards Available – Help the church mission in this relatively easy way. As in years past, cards purchased from now until December 18th will have a double benefit for St. John's ministry. Consider using the cards to purchase or use for Christmas gifts.

HOLIDAY SCRIP GIFT CARDS – Updated Scrip order forms are available and more information is available in the parish hall. We will take orders 12/4 and 12/18, with delivery the following Sunday (i.e. one week after you order, you pick up - at church). If you don't see a merchant, check out the complete Scrip list for more retailers. (Our form is geared for local and mail order, but there are hundreds of other cards available.)

Christmas Greeting Cards for those we don't often see are in the Parish Hall. Please stop by and sign the cards soon.

Christmas Flower Envelopes – If you wish to donate towards the Christmas Flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone, please send donations to the office by December 20th.

The Altar Guild will meet on Saturday, December 17th at 9:00am to polish the silver and brass for Christmas.

Annual Reports – All Annual Reports for our Annual meeting in January (22nd) will be due in the office by email or hard copy, no later than December 23rd.

Pledge Cards – Please complete your pledge card before Christmas. **The office will be closed between Christmas and New Years.**

A WORD ABOUT HOSPITALITY

If you have ever read Winnie the Pooh, you will remember that Pooh Bear gets a little peckish, a little hungry, around 11 o'clock. He calls this time the "elevenses." I remember when my children were small, they always needed a little something around 11 o'clock, especially if we had brought them to church. Fast forward to St. John's. Our youngsters need a snack and so do many of us. Coffee hour is a symbol of feeding us spiritually, as well. We get a chance to check in with each other, see how we are doing, find out what is going on in the lives of the people we worship with and care about.

Some parishioners provide coffee hour as a family, and there are a handful of these families who provide it 2-3 times a year. Michelle and I have calculated that if we take away the summer Sundays and the times when the Vestry, Choir and Stone Soup provide coffee hour, there are approximately 37 Sundays that need coverage. It is possible that if each 10 o'clock family signs up for one time, coffee hour would be covered for the entire year. Making it a family project with our children is a wonderful way to reinforce fellowship and sharing.

Please consider signing up for just one Sunday a year. It does not need to be extravagant. Cheese and crackers and some type of sweet are very popular. Directions for making the big pot of coffee are printed in the kitchen, but I can show you how to make it.

Thank you so much.

Candy Flaherty

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

With Advent upon us, I hope that you will take a step back from the hustle and bustle of the season to reflect on the great gift we have all been given in the small baby in the stable. Our Godly Play class will be hearing the story of our prophets, the Holy Family, and the shepherds, culminating with the complete story of Christmas called "The Mystery of Christmas" told using beautiful icons and paintings from museums and churches. During Advent, families have the opportunity to light the Advent wreath during the beginning of the service. Please sign up for this and ringing the bell in the narthex.

Christmas Eve we will again hold our traditional family service with our children helping Mother Cosman tell the Christmas story with our manger scene. There will be no Godly Play classes on the 25th and the 1st. We will return with our Epiphany pageant (rehearsal Sat. 1/7, 9-11) on Sunday Jan. 8th. Any children who would like to be part of the pageant need to attend the rehearsal on the 7th. A reminder about the pageant will be sent to families just after Christmas.

Linda Snyder
Christian Formation

Thank
you

Special Thanks to all our volunteers for making our Ecumenical Thanks-giving Service such a special evening, especially **Peggy Budny** and all those who baked and showed hospitality. Thank you to **Don O'Neill** and **Peggy Budny** for their donation of the new sound system for the church. Special thanks to **Ron Caine, Tom Chappell, Bruce Wearne, Betty Castonguay, Bob Osborne**, for cleaning the church. Thank you to **Anne Hall** for providing the weekly Prayer List. Thanks to our **Soup Kitchen Crew** for their hard work. Thanks to all those through the years who gave of their time and talents at Peter's Retreat and Hands On Hartford. Thanks to **Diane Hayes** and **Kevin Case** for their stewardship of St. John's Stewardship 2016 Stewardship campaign. Special thanks to **Gordon Ross, Maggie & Peter Stull, Wally Truss** and **Peter Hinman** who assisted with the Fall Garden Clean Up. Special Thanks to **Tom Chappell** for replacing all the light bulbs in the Church. Thanks to **Pat Sepples** for the fall clean up. Thanks to **Cynthia Welch** and the Altar Guild for their loving care of our sanctuary. Thank you to **Ginny Hoffmann, Winnie Pratt, Joanne Ritchie, Betty Castonguay and Nancy Gibson & Howie Martin** our office volunteers.

Thanks to **everyone** who helps with the mission and ministry of St. John's.

STONE SOUP



FALL GARDEN CLEAN UP



SAINT JOHN'S CLEANING CREW



THE CELEBRATION OF THE SPIRIT



THE BELL RINGERS



SAINT JOHN'S VETERAN'S



MEET OUR MEMBER



I am – Ginny Hoffmann, a retired teacher

At St. John's I – I have been on the vestry, a reader, ECW member, I am a greeter, volunteer and attend Dwelling in the Word

How long – 43 Years, I have 2 sons David & Steven

Do all day- Shop, knit, bake, read, most knitting is done for charity

Mentors – Francis (my mom), Dick & Monica Ellis

Favorite memory – Getting to wear earrings and lipstick at the age of 16 and memories of my sons.

Biggest challenge – Interpreting the Bible, watching my husband of 17 ½ years slowly lose his battle with ALS.

Change 1 thing – Bring peace to the entire world

Friends describe me – Talkative, friendly, always asking questions.

My life says – You can do anything you want

Favorite movie – Disney movies

Skiing or rafting or – Walking, knitting and reading

Pray about – Peace, love, happiness and joy, family, friends and good health

Greatest joy – My granddaughter and chocolate

PARISH REGISTER – Contact Information, Birthdays & Anniversaries Needed Please email Michelle, our Parish Administrator at the Parish Office at office@RedDoors.com with updates of your email and phone contact information. Also, we love to honor folks on their birthdays and anniversaries. Please let us know the month and day, so that we can celebrate with you!



HEALING EUCHARIST WITH READINGS FROM HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN – Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.



St. John's Community shares our prayer requests via our weekly email. Please contact Anne Hall at annehall@att.net or the Parish Office to be added to the list.

PASTORAL VISITS AND HOME COMMUNIONS

Please email the office at office@RedDoors.com if you would like a visit or to receive Holy Communion. Please also contact Mother Cosman if you enter the hospital.



FROM THE TREASURER

	Oct. 2016	Oct 2015
Operating Income:	\$25,120	\$22,629
Operating Expenses:	\$17,583	\$18,570
YEAR TO DATE		
	2016	2015
Operating Income:	\$139,477	\$142,632
Operating Expenses:	\$159,934	\$159,966
Larry Espinet, Treasurer		

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING SUNDAY SERVICES

A sign up sheet is posted in the parish hall as we start our Fall/Winter services. All parishioners who attend the 10AM service are requested to host at least once this fall/winter. Coffee supplies other than cream are available in the kitchen.



December 2016

St. John's Church – Calendar of Events

Anniversaries in Italics

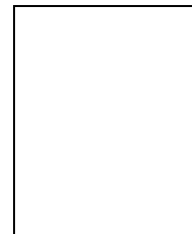


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Bible Study— 10:00AM 11:00 AM Volun- teers 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	2 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA	3
4 Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 AM St. Nicholas Nooma CNC Class 11:30 Rhythms of Grace 1:00 Light New Hart- ford—5:00PM	5	6	7 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM AA	8 Bible Study— 10:00AM 11:00 AM Volun- teers 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	9 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA	10
11 Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 AM Jesse Tree Gifts	12	13	14 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM AA	15 Bible Study— 10:00AM 11:00 AM Volun- teers 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00PM Vestry	16 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA	17 Altar Guild— 9:00AM Open Door
18 Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:00 AM Lessons & Carols—10:00AM	19	20	21 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM AA	22 Bible Study— 10:00AM 11:00 AM Volun- teers 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist	23 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA Jill & Rick Smith	24 Christmas Eve Services 5:00PM and 9:00PM
25 Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM	26 Holly & Jamie Hall Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 12:00 PM AA 8:00 PM AA Office Closed	29 Bible Study— 10:00AM 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist Office Closed Sue & Brad Bremer	30 10:00AM AI-Anon 8:30 PM AA Office Closed Barbara & David Henri	31
December Birthdays		17-Dec Reid Gargiulo		26-Dec Max O'Neill		
1-Dec Larry Espinet		17-Dec Louis Maitocznlo		28-Dec Danny Hoskins		
7-Dec Halyna Petronchak		18-Dec Tracy Hoskins		29-Dec Ralph Hitchcock		
7-Dec Frank Misiorski		22-Dec Drew Warren		30-Dec Robert Atwood		
11-Dec Zachary Marek		23-Dec Marita Chicoski		31-Dec Meg Toro		
17-Dec Alan Welch		25-Dec Gayle Moraski				



Saint. John's The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow

51 Church Street – P.O. Box 27
Pine Meadow, Connecticut 06061
RedDoors.com



*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my
prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. Phil. 1*



CONTACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Saint John's

The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow

51 Church Street – P.O. Box 27
Pine Meadow, CT 06061
Ph: 860-379-3062

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

After Hours Emergency Only:

Priest in Charge 860-227-6991

Priest in Charge:

The Rev. Sandra Lee Cosman, M.Div.
E-Mail: Sandra.Cosman@gmail.com

Secretary:

Michelle Piekos
E-Mail: Office@RedDoors.com

Music Director:

Halyna Petronchak
E-mail: Halyna191@gmail.com

Christian Education Specialist:

Linda L. Snyder
Email: llsnyders4@charter.net

Web sites:

St. John's: www.RedDoors.com
facebook.com/stjohnspineadow/
ECCT: EpiscopalCT.org

Saint John's 2016 Vestry

Sr. Warden:

Gordon Ross wgordonross@gmail.com

Jr. Warden:

John Gargiulo gargiulos@att.net

Treasurer:

Larry Espinet lawrence.espinet@cigna.com

Clerk of the Vestry:

Anne Hall annehall81@yahoo.com

Members:

Donna Colavecchio (2017) gcolav@charter.net

Peggy Budny (2017) pegbudny@frontier.com

Jill Healey (2018) houseofhealey@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Gibson (2018) nangibson1@hotmail.com

Beth Coates (2019) b.coates@charter.net

Kevin Case (2019) kcase@cantonschools.org

ECCT Delegates:

Robert Osborne rkosborne_98@yahoo.com

Anne Hall annehall81@yahoo.com

Outreach Ministries:

Laura & Bruce Wearne moseyworks@gmail.com

Altar Guild:

Cynthia Welch welchcbma@sbcglobal.net

Intercessory Prayer List Requests:

Anne Hall annehall81@yahoo.com

2017 PORTAL DEADLINES

Publication Month	Deadline: Noon, Friday
February	January 30
March	February 27
April	March 27
May	April 24
June/July	May 29
August	July 24
Sept/October	September 4
November	October 23
December/January	November 27
Please enter these dates on your calendar NOW.	

**Deadline for the February
Portal is noon, January 30th**

Word limit is 250.

**Send Information to
office@RedDoors.com**